



NEWS RELEASE

05-050

Date: Friday February 4, 2005

District: 8 – San Bernardino

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOUNTAIN CLOSURE CLARIFICATION

San Bernardino County – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is receiving questions regarding recent mountain closures. The following information will assist the media, residents and mountain travelers regarding closures and re-openings of all mountain routes.

SR-18 from 40th Street to Junction 18/138 will open Saturday morning, February 5, 2005 at 4 a.m. to improve access for the lower section of SR-18. ACCESS FOR LOWER SR-18 RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ONLY. NO THROUGH TRAFFIC TO MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES. Access to Crestline via SR-138 from the junction of 18/138 is only available during escort hours. SR-18 from Jct 18/138 to Pine Avenue (The Narrows to Rim Forest) remains closed to mountain communities such as Lake Arrowhead, Running Springs, Blue Jay and Rim Forest.

As a result of community feedback, a change has been made to the escort hours. The new hours are 4:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. and **5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**, seven days a week. The escorts are provided to accommodate local residents.

All other motorists are encouraged to use SR-330 to Arrowhead, Running Springs, Blue Jay and Rim Forest communities.

SR-138 from Jct 18/138 to Crest Forest Drive is closed for slope repair. Access from SR-18 to Crestline is subject to the escort hours listed above. The route is expected to reopen late March 2005.

All other motorists are encouraged to use SR-330 to Arrowhead, Running Springs, Blue Jay and Rim Forest communities.

SR-18 from Jct 18/138 to Pine Avenue (The Narrows to Rim Forest) remains closed. There has been considerable road damage and slide activity due to erosion from recent storms. The road is expected to re-open in Spring 2005.

All other motorists are encouraged to use SR-330 to Arrowhead, Running Springs, Blue Jay and Rim Forest communities

MORE





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05-050 (cont')

SR-18 from Rim Forest to Big Bear (through the Arctic Circle) is open to all motorists. Minor repairs continue in the Arctic Circle 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday) with flagging and minimal delays.

SR-18 from Big Bear to Lucerne is closed and under construction to rebuild the roadway from storm damage. The expected re-opening of this route is mid-February 2005.

SR-330 is open to all traffic. Motorists are urged to use this route as a detour to mountain communities. Nighttime construction work begins Monday February 7, 2005 through February 18, 2005 to repair slope damage and other work on drains and culverts. The work hours are 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Flagging operations will be in use to pass traffic one direction at a time. The delays will be minimal.

SR-138 from east of I-15 through Silverwood to Crestline is open to all traffic. Buses, commercial trucks and vehicles with trailers are not recommended. This route is an alternate detour for travelers to the Crestline/Lake Gregory community.

SR-38 is open to all traffic. This route is advisable for motorists traveling to the Big Bear community. You may also use SR-330 to SR-18 (Arctic Circle) to Big Bear.

Motorists in mountain areas can tune to AM 530 for additional information.

Caltrans has been engaged in completing permanent repairs to many of the mountain routes since January 2005. Adverse weather conditions and the delivery of materials have had an effect on our target completion dates. The continuation of slipping, saturated slopes have added to the delays. As we make progress, more exact dates for road openings will be provided.

Motorists can expect occasional lane restrictions scheduled to avoid peak travel periods. Caltrans appreciates your patience during this emergency storm repair. Please stay alert and slow for the flagging operation. Follow all directions and most importantly - ***SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE.***

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